

## **REMARKS**

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 3-4, 7-9, and 17 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-2, 5-6, 10-16, and 18 have been cancelled. Claims 3, 7, 8, 9, and 17 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. No new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants note with gratitude that claims 3-4, 7-9, and 17 contain allowable subject matter.

### **Claim Rejections**

Claims 1-2, 5-6, 10-16, and 18 stand rejected. Those claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, mooted the rejections. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuing applications based on the cancelled claims.

### **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 3-4, 7-9, and 17, is in condition for allowance and an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.


If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help

to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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